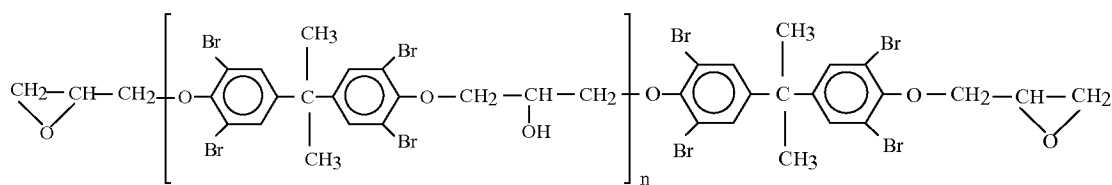
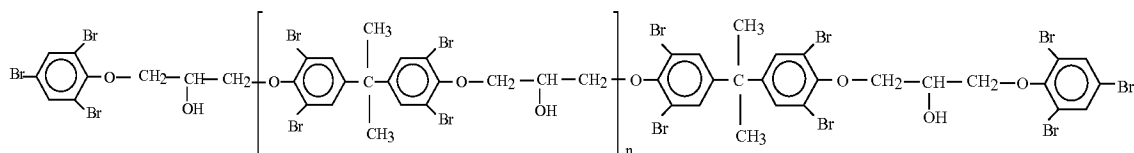


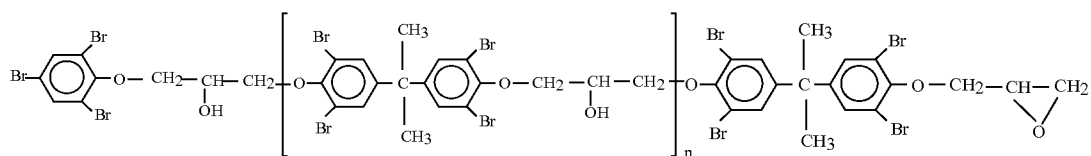
1. (Previously presented) A flame retardant (FR) for engineering engineering thermoplastic compositions, said FR containing less than 100 ppm of organic solvents with boiling point lower than 250° C. while increasing melt flow index of said compositions and minimizing corrosion of metallic parts being in contact with said compositions, prepared according to the method claim 22, which comprises a mixture of compounds of formula (I) and/or formula (II) and/or formula (III):



Formula (I)



Formula (II)



Formula (III)

wherein n is an integer; and

wherein at least 80 mol% of the end groups of all three formulae in the mixture are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups, and at most 20 mol% of said end groups are glycidyl groups;

said retardant being characterized by:

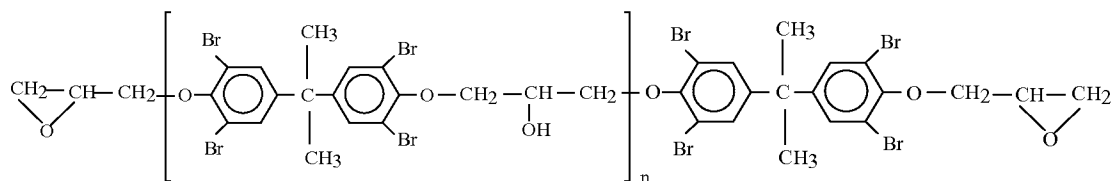
- i) a molecular weight of between 7,000 and 50,000 Daltons;

- ii) a free tribromophenol content less than 0.1 wt% of the whole flame retardant; and
 - iii) a content of organic solvents, with boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of the whole flame retardant.
2. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, wherein 85 to 100 mol% of the end groups are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups and 0 to 15 mol % of the end groups are glycidyl groups.
3. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, wherein the content of said organic solvents with boiling point lower than 250°C, is lower than 50 ppm.
4. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, comprising from 70 to 100 mol% of modified brominated epoxides BEs of formula (II), from 30 to 0 mol% of partly modified BEs of formula (III), and from 10 to 0 mol% of unmodified BEs of formula (I).
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, having molecular weight higher than 7,000 and lower than 30,000 Daltons.
7. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, having an acid number less than 1 mg KOH/g.
8. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 7, having an acid number less than 0.5 mg KOH/g.

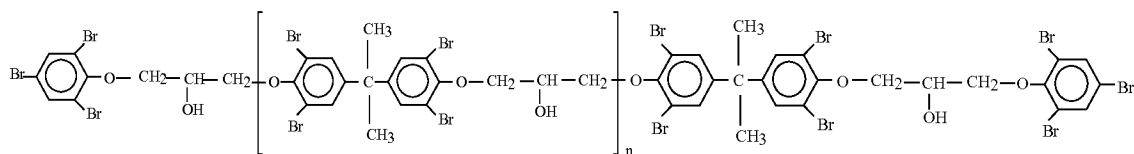
9. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, having an epoxy equivalent of more than 10,000.
10. (Previously presented) A flame-retarded engineering thermoplastic composition, comprising a base polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, ~~or~~ polybutylene terephthalate, mixtures of polyethylene terephthalate with polybutylene terephthalate, polyamides, and polycarbonate or its alloys, and further comprising at least one flame retardant according to claim 1.

Claims 11-19 (Canceled).

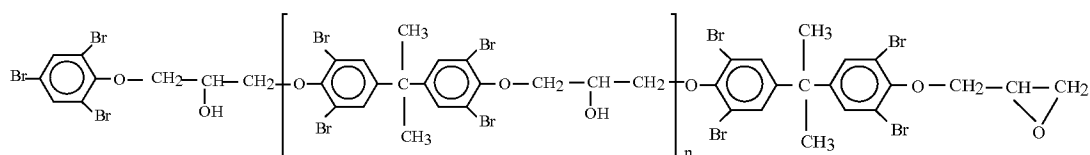
20. (Previously presented) A flame-retarded engineering thermoplastic composition according to claim 10, further comprising hindered phenol antioxidants.
21. (Previously presented) A flame-retarded engineering thermoplastic composition according to claim 10, further comprising fillers and/or glass reinforcement and/or antioxidants and/or lubricants and/or pigments and/or anti-dripping agents and/or grades of talc that act as nucleating agents and that reduce the injection molding cycle time.
22. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of a flame retardant (FR) for engineering thermoplastic compositions, said FR containing less than 100 ppm of organic ~~solves~~ solvents with boiling point lower than 250°C. and increasing melt flow index of said compositions while minimizing corrosion of metallic parts being in contact with said compositions, said FR being a high molecular weight brominated epoxide (HMW BE) comprising a mixture of compounds of formula (I) and/or formula (II) and/or formula (III):



Formula (I)



Formula (II)



Formula (III)

wherein n is an integer; and

wherein at least 80 mol% of the end groups of all three formulae in the mixture are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups, and at most 20 mol% of said end groups are glycidyl groups;

said FR being characterized by a molecular weight of between 7,000 and 50,000 Daltons; and a free tribromophenol content less than 0.1 wt%;

wherein said method comprises the steps of:

a) preparing low molecular weight brominated epoxide (LMW BE) having a molecular weight of between 650 and 3,500 Daltons, and a content of organic solvents, with boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of said LMW BE ; and

b) reacting said LMW BE with tetrabromobisphenol-A (TBBA), and with a component selected from the group consisting of tribromophenol (TBP), tribromophenyglycidyl ether and a mixture thereof, in the presence of a catalyst, wherein said reaction takes place

without addition of any solvent, at a temperature of from 100°C to 250°C,

said method being characterized in that it does not include any step of removing the solvent from said high molecular weight brominated epoxide.

23. (Canceled)